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Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 FMC-04 AID-20 DLOS-07 COA-02

DRC-01 /138 W
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R 261612Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1715

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 2442

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LI, CU, US
SUBJECT: LIBERIA AND CUBA ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

REF: STATE 084912

1. ON APRIL 25, PRIOR RECEIPT REFTEL, MR. HENRY N. CONWAY, JR., PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL TRUST CO. (INTRUSCO), AMERICAN FIRM WHICH MANAGES LIBERIAN SHIP REGISTRY FOR LIBERIAN MARITIME COMMISSION (LMC), CALLED ON EMBASSY TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL PROBLEM POSED BY ESTABLISHMENT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN LIBERIA AND CUBA. CONWAY ADVISED THAT DEPARTMENT HAD CONTACTED INTRUSCO OFFICERS IN U.S. AND INFORMED THEM THAT PROVISION U.S. LEGISLATION WITH REGARD

TO PROHIBITION FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES PERMITTING SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT UNDER THEIR REGISTRY CARRY CARGOES TO OR FROM CUBA STILL PERTAINS. CONWAY STATED HE PLANS DISCUSS MATTER WITH FINANCE MINISTER STEPHEN TOLBERT AS SOON AS APPOINTMENT CAN BE ARRANGED. HE WILL RECOMMEND THAT GOL APPROVE SENDING MARITIME NOTICE FROM LMC TO REGISTERED SHIPS TO REAFFIRM CONTINUED VALIDITY REGULATION 1.40 WHICH PROHIBITS LIBERIAN FLAG SHIPS ENGAGE IN CUBAN TRADE.

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2. EMBOFFS BRIEFED CONWAY ON BACKGROUND SECTION 620 (A)

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(3) OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961 AND ON PROBLEMS THAT HAD ARISEN WITH COUNTRIES WHICH PERMITTED THEIR SHIPS ENGAGE IN CUBAN TRADE. HE ALSO PROVIDED WITH TEXT OF PUBLIC LAW 91-94, TITLE I, ITEM 107 OF FEBRUARY 9, 1970, FROM U.S. CODE COVERING THIS MATTER.

3. AFTER RECEIPT REFTEL, EMBOFF AGAIN SPOKE WITH CONWAY. HE HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE SCHEDULE MEETING WITH TOLBERT. HE AGREED KEEP US INFORMED OF ANY REACTIONS ON HIS RECOMMENDATION FOR ISSUANCE MARITIME NOTICE.

4. IN VIEW FACT THAT PRESENT LIBERIAN SHIP REGISTRATION REGULATIONS SPECIFICALLY PROHIBIT SHIPS ENGAGING CUBA TRADE, AND INTENTION INTRUSCO RAISE THIS POTENTIAL ISSUE WITH GOL, EMBASSY PROPOSES THAT NO OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIONS BE MADE BY US TO GOL AT THIS TIME. EVEN INFORMAL DISCUSSION WOULD PROBABLY BE INTERPRETED BY GOL AS EVIDENCE OUR PIQUE OVER LIBERIAN RELATIONS WITH CUBA. THERE MAY BE DANGER THAT THIS COULD CREATE MORE PROBLEMS THAN IT WOULD RESOLVE.
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